



WaterWatch

THE NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION
Protecting our Waters Since 1970



Peterson Pond Dam on the Third Herring Brook just before, during, and after removal (Norwell and Hanover).

Resilience, Restoration, and Renewal

For many, the past year of cautious living deepened our understanding of the relationship between restoring our natural environment and building resiliency to climate change – for ourselves and the wildlife that use our waters.

Nowhere is this connection more evident than in the work of the NSRWA and its partners to restore three major habitats in our watershed: First Herring Brook in Scituate, Third Herring Brook in Norwell and Hanover, and the South River in Marshfield and Duxbury. Dams along these waterways and tributaries, built in the Colonial era and enlarged during the industrial revolution, have severely impacted the populations of herring, American eel, rainbow smelt, and native eastern brook trout that once

flourished throughout the region.

First Herring Brook in Scituate (see map p.6) presents a unique challenge to restoration efforts as the two dams on it create the towns' drinking water reservoirs. Since 2011, NSRWA has been working with local officials on a two-pronged effort to provide additional water storage capacity (★2 p.6 map) and to restore the fish ladder and manage stream flows to allow for outmigration of herring during the summer and fall (★1,2).

Third Herring Brook, which defines the natural boundary between Norwell and Hanover, provides our greatest success story and a future restoration model. During the last 17 years, NSRWA and its project partners have collabo-

rated to remove 3 of the 4 dams that have interrupted streamflow for almost four centuries – opening up 10 miles of freshwater habitat for herring and native eastern brook trout. With support from state and local governments, community organizations and private developers, more than \$1.2 million has been expended to remove dams at Tack Factory Pond (★3), Mill Pond (★4) and Peterson Pond (★5). With the return of native eastern brook trout, Third Herring Brook is now classified as a Coldwater Fisheries Resource by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, thus providing additional protection. The last dam, which lies under Route 123 at Jacob's Pond

See Resilience, Continued on Page 7



Advocacy: A Vital Part of the Puzzle

Led by Executive Director Samantha Woods, NSRWA staff and volunteers have been working with state and local governments, elected officials, and community organizations to secure funding, support environmental legislation, and monitor development that may impact our watershed. Below is a short list of recent successes and ongoing challenges.

On the legislative front, NSRWA played a major role in advancing two important initiatives – restoration of state funding for the **Scenic and Recreational Protective Order for the North**

River, and implementation of the **Sewage Notification Bill**, which requires public notification within 2 hours of any sewage discharges to the waters of the Commonwealth.

More than 2,500 people signed our online petition to restore \$30,000 to the Department of Conservation and Recreation budget to support the activities of the **North River Commission** for one year. We are still working on a permanent solution and expansion of the

See Advocacy, Continued on Page 7

NORTH AND SOUTH RIVERS WATERSHED ASSOCIATION

Our purpose is to *Protect Our Waters*.

Educate + Engage = Healthy Waters

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NSRWA

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Preserving the Sacred Rivers

This issue of the newsletter acknowledges some of NSRWA's recent successful efforts of dam removal, stream restoration, and protecting our rivers.

The NSRWA walk on New Year's Day this year got me thinking about the dam removal sites many of us saw along the Third Herring Brook. In Colonial times no one thought of the stream/river as anything but a resource to use, controlled by the people, abutters, who owned the land. Hearing Sara Grady tell our members of the return of herring runs and native brook trout in the Third Herring Brook and the impact on our stream restorations made me think about these efforts as initiatives to undo centuries of recent human impact and use that, at the time, showed little concern for the effects on the river.

Thinking of our history I consulted Samuel Deane's History of Scituate from its First Settlement to 1831. He notes, even then, our ancestors struggled in 1794 with an Act of the General Court to restore a "formerly abundant fishery" in the brooks and rivers by "providing sluices at the mills... removing the obstructions to their ascending." Deane noted however that the act was repealed in 1800 "and the fishery is extinct... long since been repelled by the mill dams."

I thought too of history, before its recording, when indigenous Patuxets and other native members of the Wôpanâak (Wampanoag) Confederation gathered in the spring and fall for the herring, shad, eel, and striped bass runs up these local flowing, then unobstructed waterways. Talk to some of the "old timers" locally and they will tell you of hunting for and finding arrow heads by the rivers.

The difference between the indigenous treatment and use of the streams and rivers and the colonists' treatment and use lead me to think about how we might try to integrate traditional Native American beliefs with our own history. Recently, Rosalyn La Pier, an indigenous ethnobotanist and environmental history scholar, has argued for consideration of what's become known as "TEK," Traditional Ecological Knowledge, recognizing the beliefs and insights of Native American people about the environment in discussions about what knowledge should be considered when we think about how to interact with the environment.

Thinking about these efforts brought me to a thought problem prompted by native



peoples trying to preserve and protect rivers in their locales. Consider the following:

Many indigenous creation accounts share the belief that the world is made up of three sacred spaces: the earth, the sky, and rivers (rivers are usually thought to connect and give life to the sky and earth and are believed to be particularly sacred). The Maori people of New Zealand recently won a legal decision that grants the Whanganui River, which flows across the North Island, rights of personhood under domestic law. The river has "...all the rights, powers, duties, and liabilities of a legal person," something the Maori have believed all along. The new law also designates the river's stewards, a group of Maori and representatives of the state, who are charged with speaking for and advocating for the river's new legal rights. When the river is threatened with pollution or some other threat the river can stand for itself in court with its legal guardians, arguing for the river's rights to be protected or not harmed.

If we thought about the Third Herring Brook and the North and South Rivers as people, with rights and guardians to speak for them, would it have made a difference in the past?

Would such a notion change how we view development, access, recreation, and potential harm we might inflict on the rivers and streams if they had a "voice" and could legally act to protect themselves today?

NSRWA President, Peter Hainer



X-Cel's Conservation Corps taking a photo break after an afternoon of coastal exploration and kayaking with the NSRWA at the Driftway in Scituate.

Getting Youth Outdoors with Partners

Partnering to get youth outdoors is a great way for us to instill them with a love of their rivers and watersheds. This spring and summer via partnerships with the Norwell and Marshfield Recreation Departments and Ferry Hill Day Camp, we will offer several weeks of outdoor adventure programming to local area youth (as we did last year). Through hiking, fishing, and kayaking, our local youth gain outdoor adventure skills, valuable leadership experience, and connect with their land, water, and communities.

Last year saw us partner with the X-Cel Education Conservation Corps through our Estuary Explorers program. X-Cel Education is a non-profit organization geared towards

helping youth in underserved communities of Greater Boston reach their full potential in fields of their interests. X-Cel is partnering with the NSRWA to offer several conservation and water related trips out to coastal and estuarine areas during their spring, summer and fall semesters to introduce their students to the marine and estuarine sciences. Students with X-Cel can form connections with the North and South Rivers and translate what they learned to their local waterways at home. Through these connections, the students can form a greater understanding of watersheds and therefore a deeper appreciation of the natural resources in their own communities.



South Shore youth enjoying fishing during a beautiful fall day in Hanover.

South Shore Explorers

Looking to get your kids out of the house and into an adventure? The NSRWA is offering a 3 day guided outdoor adventure program for youth ages 10 to 13. Program will run Wednesday to Friday afternoons. Each afternoon will include either fishing, hiking, kayaking, or a combination of the three! Participants will gain outdoor experience, backwoods navigation and survival skills, discover various flora and fauna, and learn local history. Kayaks, paddles, PFDs, fishing equipment included.

Parents/guardians will drop-off and pick-up youth at predetermined locations each day. \$100/youth. Email us at info@nsrwa.org for more information.

South Shore Explorers dates:

Wednesday-Friday, August 4, 5, 6
Wednesday-Friday, August 18, 19, 20

WaterSmart and FISH School Support Youth Education

Though COVID-19 postponed our in-person school programming, the NSRWA is working to provide valuable watershed education to South Shore area school children. As part of the familiar Water-Smart South Shore program entitled: "Water All Around You", provided for free to more than 2,500 5th graders on the South Shore every year, the NSRWA and Harbor Media have recorded a series of videos as a free resource for teachers and students. The videos and accompanying lessons cover water conservation, what watershed they live in, how to protect their watershed, and even getting a guided virtual tour of a



local water treatment plant!

Thanks to funding from Battelle, we are also bringing the rivers and herring

to the students with a new iteration of F.I.S.H. School. Standing for *Fostering Innovative Science through Herring counts in School*, F.I.S.H. School allows students to connect with their local waterways by literally bringing the herring into their homes. Middle and high school aged students count herring virtually via recorded video from an underwater camera located in the South River. Through this scientific monitoring, students help gather data, learn about the life cycle of river herring, the status of herring populations in their own waterways and local work being done to restore their populations.



South Shore Leaders in Restoration

The Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership and NSRWA: For over a decade the NSRWA has been the South Shore host of the EPA's Massachusetts Bays National Estuary Partnership. Sara Grady serves as the NSRWA Watershed Ecologist and the MassBays South Shore Regional Coordinator and works with communities and environmental nonprofits from Cohasset to Plymouth to open shellfish beds, improve coastal habitats, restore fish habitat, manage invasive species, and improve local understanding of climate change and sea level rise on our ecosystems.

MassBays partners and provides support to many organizations throughout the South Shore who lead habitat restoration in the region, along with other state and federal partners like MassDER and NOAA. These powerhouses work to complete projects like dam removals, cranberry bog restoration, and tide gate improvements that increase continuity and habitat quality in their local estuaries and rivers. Let's meet a few from outside the North and South Rivers watershed!

Jack Buckley, Cohasset Center for Student Coastal Research – MassBays has worked with Jack to monitor wetlands restored by tide gate replacements and helped clear culverts to maintain tidal flushing. In recent years, both CSCR and MassBays have been focusing on eelgrass monitoring and restoration with the help of fellow CSCR educator, Susan Bryant. Jack says, "CSCR students and staff love to collaborate with Dr. Sara Grady... [we are] deeply appreciative of having both a friend and an expert just a short swim or paddle away!"

Pine DuBois, Jones River Watershed Association – Pine and the Jones River Watershed Association have had multiple restoration successes including two major dam removals and have been pioneers in campaigning for adequate streamflow from Silver Lake. MassBays has partnered with the JRWA on projects as diverse as salt marsh monitoring, river herring monitoring, streamflow, and water quality.

David Gould, Town of Plymouth Marine and Environmental Affairs – David has accomplished so many resto-

ration projects for the Town of Plymouth that Eric Hutchins of NOAA Restoration Center (another wonderful MassBays partner) has said that he is "close to being the single most-effective person working for habitat restoration [he has] ever seen." Most prominent is his two-decade effort to restore Town Brook, removing five dams and currently working to improve herring passage even more at another through a nature-like fishway. MassBays has partnered with him through project support and post-restoration monitoring.

Glorianna Davenport, Living Observatory/Tidmarsh Farms Inc./MIT Media Lab – Glorianna worked with diverse partners to restore the Tidmarsh Farms cranberry bogs into a free-flowing and naturalized wetland that is now the centerpiece of the MassAudubon Tidmarsh Wildlife Sanctuary. The project was the largest freshwater restoration in the Northeast. MassBays has partnered to lead herring monitoring in Beaver Dam Brook, the river that runs through the property, and has also contributed to vegetation monitoring and outreach at the site.

Check Out Our Gardening Green Expo Resources

Ordinarily, Gardening Green Expo is a live event where people can come to get a taste of spring, talk with vendors, and hear from experts in many fields. This year, the 2021 Gardening Green Expo was a virtual event that started on March 22 and ran through March 28. In case you missed it, there are still plenty of resources to check out! All of the Zoom presentations were recorded and are available on our website.

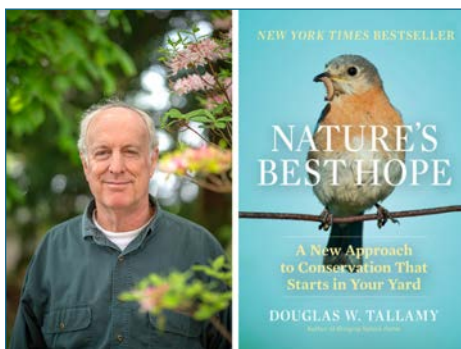
There are also downloadable plant resources from Kennedy's Country Gardens and links to useful plant lists from Blue Stem Natives and Doveflower Cottage.



Gardening GREEN EXPO

Doug Tallamy Kicked Off the Expo!

The first Gardening Green Expo presentation was Nature's Best Hope by Doug Tallamy. Tallamy is a professor in the Department of Entomology and Wildlife Ecology at the University of Delaware, where he has authored 105 research articles and has taught Insect Taxonomy, Behavioral Ecology, Humans and Nature, and other courses for forty years. Tallamy's first book, *Bringing Nature Home*, awakened thousands of readers to an urgent situation: wildlife populations are in decline because the native plants they depend on are fast disappearing. In his new book, *Nature's*



Best Hope, Tallamy shows how homeowners everywhere can turn their yards into conservation corridors that provide wildlife habitats.



Order Your Rain Barrels and Composters Now!

This is the year to finally capture the free rain water from your roof to water your garden. It's also the year to make free "black gold" compost from your kitchen scraps and yard waste.

The rain barrels, which cost \$85, and composters, which cost \$75, are on sale in conjunction with the Gardening Green Expo. The sale will continue through Friday, April 23, and all orders must be in at that time. The merchandise will be available for pickup between Saturday, May 1 through Tuesday, May 4 at the NSRWA office, 214 South Street, Norwell. You will be asked to select a pickup date and time due to the continuing COVID-19 pandemic.

For more information, go to our website, nsrwa.org, or scan this QR code with your smartphone camera.



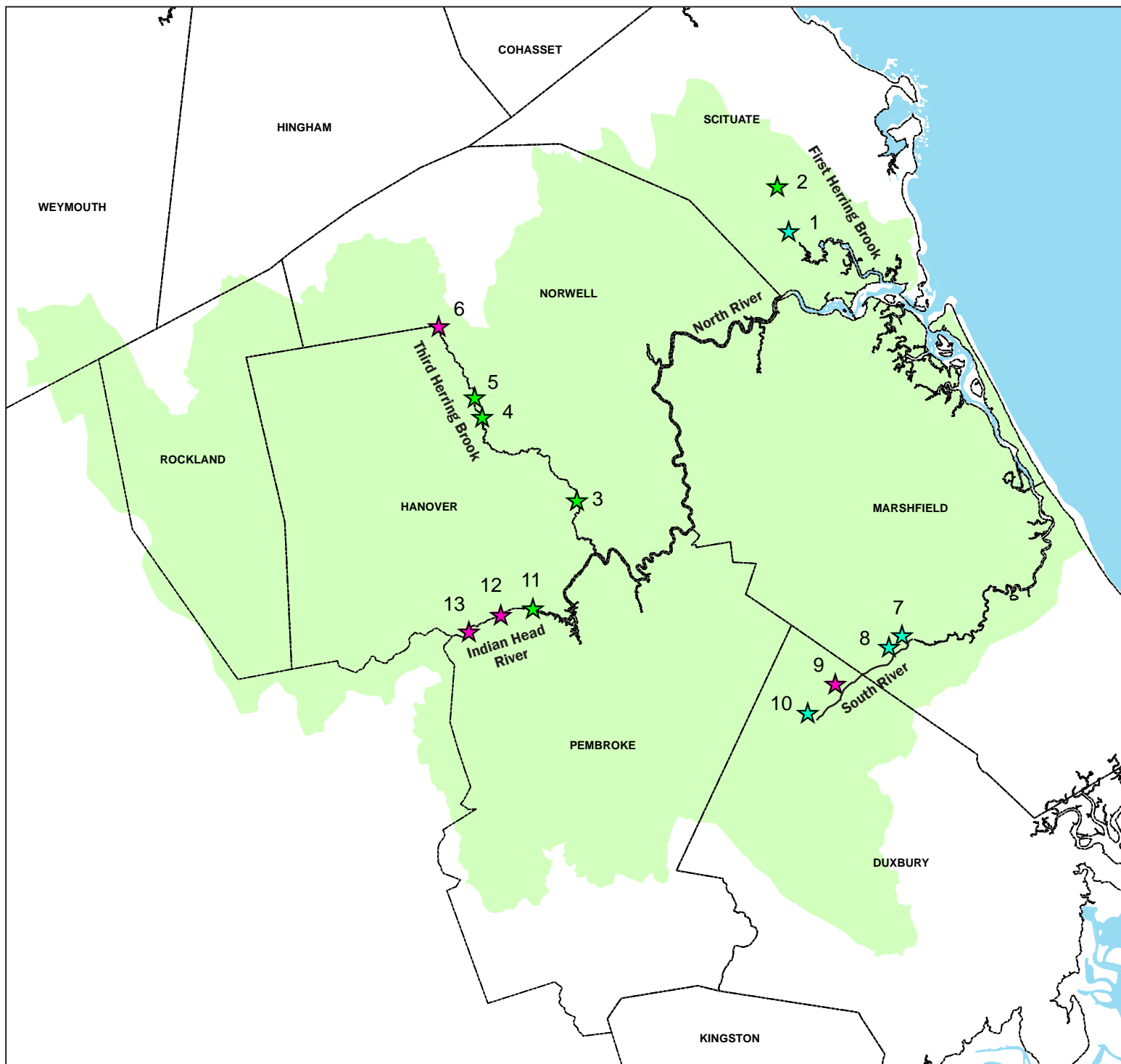
Check Out These Videos from Gardening Green Expo

- **Nature's Best Hope** by Doug Tallamy
- **What is Biochar?** by Debbie Cook
- **The Magic of Butterflies** by Blake Dinius
- **Making Your Garden a Sanctuary for Songbirds** by Lisey Good
- **The Battle Between Native and Invasive Plants** by Susan Leigh Anthony
- **Healthy Soil 101** by Kerry Richardson
- **Caterpillars the Whole Story: Caterpillars, Connections, and Why Biodiversity Matters** by Sam Jaffe
- **Farm to Food Pantry** by Jon Belber, Holly Hill Farm
- **Practical Organic Gardening: A No-Nonsense Guide to Growing Naturally** by Mark Highland, Organic Mechanics
- **How To Build A Rain Garden** – NSRWA, WaterSmartSouthShore, and Wild Ones
- **Greenscapes 101** – NSRWA Executive Director Samantha Woods
- **Top 10 Plants to Support Monarch Butterflies** – Blue Stem Natives
- **Top 10 Plants for At-risk Insects** – Blue Stem Natives
- **Top Ten Edible Native Plants** – Blue Stem Natives
- **Right Plant, Right Place... Why Native?** – Wild Ones South Shore MA chapter
- **City Nature Challenge** – Chris Jacobs, South Shore Natural Science Center

For more information, go to our website, nsrwa.org, or scan the QR code above with your smartphone camera.



Restoration and Renewal Projects on the



Map Key

Location

First Herring Brook

1. Old Oaken Bucket Dam
2. Reservoir Dam

Third Herring Brook

3. Tack Factory
4. Mill Pond
5. Peterson Pond
6. Jacob's Pond

Status

- Maintain flows
- Increase water storage
- Dam removed 2017
- Dam removed 2014
- Dam removed 2020
- Future fish passage

Location

South River

7. Veterans' Park Dam
8. Chandler Pond Dam
9. Feinberg Bog
10. Temple Street Dam

Indian Head River

11. Iron Mine Brook
12. Luddam's Ford Dam
13. State Street Dam

Status

- Future dam removal
- Future dam removal
- Future dam removal
- Future dam removal
- Culvert removed 2016
- Potential future dam removal
- Potential future dam removal



Resilience

Continued from Page 1

(★6) in Norwell, cannot be removed, but efforts are underway with the town and the state highway department to create a fish ladder to the pond that – combined with a streamflow release plan – will provide an additional 62 acres of spawning habitat for river herring.

Along the **South River**, we are working with local officials and groups to restore fish passage and improve habitat at 4 sites from Veterans’ Memorial Park in Marshfield to the Temple Street Dam in Duxbury. Design and permitting are already underway to remove the dam and improve fish passage while preserving the lagoon and water wheel at Veterans’ Park (★7). Meanwhile, hydrologic studies have been completed at the Chandler Pond Dam (★8) and Temple Street Dam (★10), laying the groundwork for future dam removals. Between the 2 sites lies the South River Bog (★9), a 100-acre parcel formerly known as the Feinberg Bogs. Once home to an extensive cranberry operation, the site still contains a number of irrigation

channels that need to be studied further in order to understand their effect on natural stream flows.

Looking further ahead, there are 3 sites along the **Indian Head River** – defining the boundary between Hanover and Pembroke – that require thoughtful review: Iron Mine Brook (★11), Luddam’s Ford Dam (★12), and Cross Street (Hanover)/State Street (Hanover) Dam (★13). We have successfully removed a culvert that impeded trout and other fish from navigating between the Indian Head River and the cooler waters of Iron Mine Brook. The fish have a tougher time at Luddam’s Ford, however, where there’s a sadly inefficient fish ladder in the middle of the spillway that is a challenge to both fish ingenuity and human engineering.

In early to mid-spring, Luddam’s Ford is a great place to watch ever-resilient Alewife and Blueback herring line up by the thousands to try their luck at the fish ladder. It’s also a great time and place to remember that by restoring these streams, we are renewing resources that keep us alive, as well.

Advocacy

Continued from Page 1

Protective Order to support a dedicated patrol boat on the North River.

In 2017, NSRWA joined with citizens, local legislators, and the Town of Pembroke to oppose a plan to build 14 multi-unit townhomes, containing 56 condominiums with 157 bedrooms on 48.9 acres, more than half of which is wetlands and partially within the Scenic North River Corridor. Under **Chapter 40B**, the state’s affordable housing law, developers are allowed to build much more densely, bypassing some local planning and zoning regulations if they set aside affordable units. Despite intense opposition, the proposal passed state review in January and is currently under consideration by the town’s Zoning Board of Appeals.

NSRWA has sent a comment letter outlining substantive environmental

concerns related to the location and footprint of this development, as well its placement on top of unique and sensitive wetland resource areas and formerly identified endangered species habitat. Your voice can join ours. Public comments can be directed to the Pembroke Zoning Board of Appeals.

We are actively supporting the top legislative priorities announced by the **Mass Rivers Alliance**: HD.1635/SD1317, a bill that would give the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force statutory authority and provide the Massachusetts Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs with authority to require uniform nonessential outdoor watering restrictions across a drought region during severe droughts; and HD3574/SD1661, which would create an Invasive Species Council and Invasive Species Management plan for the state, as well as administer the Invasive Species Trust Fund.

Get Outdoors with NSRWA this Spring

Small Group Walks and Paddles

Get outdoors with our small group activities, including walks, paddles and more. For more information, go to our website nsrwa.org or scan the QR code with your smart-phone camera.



Walks

Sunday, March 28 - 10-11:30am - Guided Nature Hike at Couch Beach, Marshfield

Sunday, April 4 - 10-11:30am - Vernal Pool Exploration at Denham Pond

Sunday, April 11 - 10-11:30am - Guided Hike at J.J. Shepherd Memorial Forest

Paddles

Sunday, May 9 - 12:00pm Guided Kayak Paddle - Hanover Canoe Launch - BYOB*

Sunday, June 13 - 3:00pm Guided Kayak Paddle - Hanover Canoe Launch - Kayaks/equipment included

Sunday, June 20 - 1:00pm Summer Solstice Paddle - South River - BYOB*

* Bring Your Own Boat



Top: NSRWA Educator quietly guides a group of youth up stream to view a beaver dam.

Bottom: Conducting water sampling and viewing found items onboard NSRWA's pontoon boat during an Estuary Explorers trip.



Enjoy our Chartered Outdoor Adventures

Looking to get your group outside and into an adventure? The NSRWA is offering private custom guided outdoor adventure programs for small groups. Professionally guided pontoon tours, fishing trips, kayak tours, hikes, wilderness survival workshops, vernal pool exploration, and geocaching. Great for scout troops, families, and youth organizations. Outdoor programs for

all ages. Whether you're looking for an educational outing, or a family fun day, let us know what you are interested in and we can plan an adventure for you! All equipment included! From a short 1 hour hike, to an all-day river paddle, we offer a range of options tailored specifically to your group!

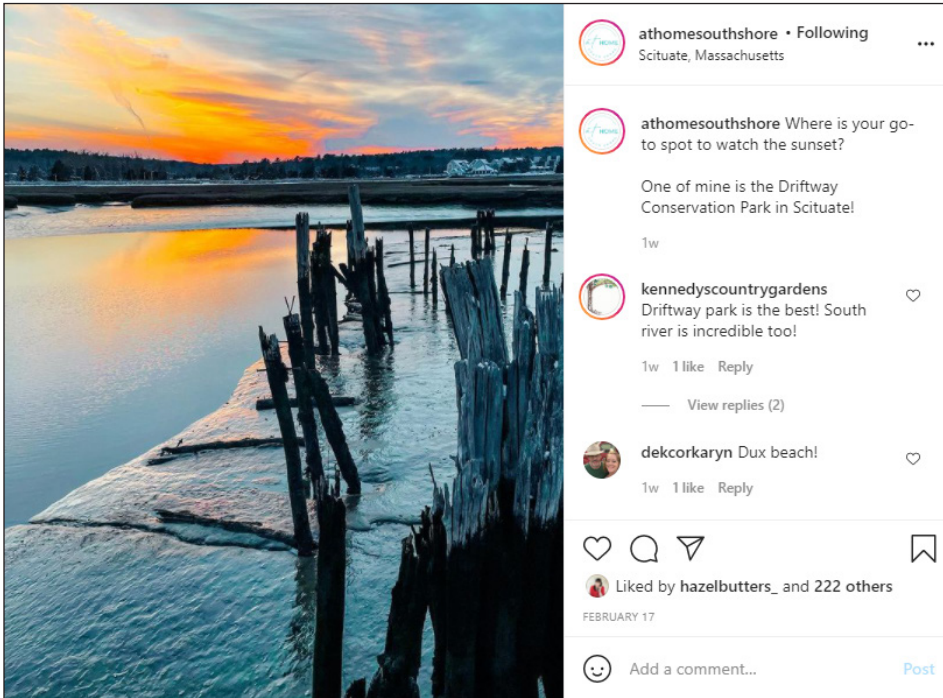
Contact info@nsrwa.org for more information.

Estuary Explorers Tours Now on Kayaks

The NSRWA is now offering our signature Estuary Explorers ecology tours on kayaks or via pontoon boat. Take part in hands-on discovery including water testing, macroinvertebrate search and identification, and wildlife searches, just to name a few. Experience the aquatic ecosystem by kayaking through it!

These are all 2 hour programs for groups up to 8 youth, ages 10 and up. One adult with the group is required to attend the program. A great program for scouts, youth groups, clubs, or classes of middle and high school aged students. We can meet you at a predetermined location with all equipment needed to hit the water and go. Estuary Explorers is at no cost to groups thanks to the generous support from the Cordelia Family Foundation and the Michele E. Dufault Foundation. Each program comes complete with all equipment necessary. Suitable for all experience levels.

Contact brian@nsrwa.org and we can begin planning your next outdoor discovery adventure!



Enter The Explore South Shore 2021 Contest!

We were delighted with the response to last year's Explore South Shore Contest, which celebrated NSRWA's 50th Anniversary by suggesting 50 properties to visit throughout the year. In fact, the program was so popular that we've decided to expand it into 2021, offering 52 more places for you to check out this year, one for every week.

You can enter to win a monthly prize by visiting the featured properties and posting your photos on Instagram @northsouthrivers with the hashtag #ExploreSouthShore. Once a month we will randomly choose a winner from the posts to receive a prize package. For more information, go to our website at <https://www.nsrwa.org/get-outdoors/explore-south-shore-2021-contest/>

52 Places to Explore

Friday, April 9	Webster-Billings Conservation Area – Hanson
Friday, April 16	Misty Meadows Conservation Property – Pembroke
Friday, April 23	Pudding Hill Reservation – Marshfield
Friday, April 30	Myles Standish Monument State Reservation – Duxbury
Friday, May 7	World's End – Hingham
Friday, May 14	Hoyt-Hall Preserve – Marshfield
Friday, May 21	North Hill Marsh Wildlife Sanctuary – Duxbury
Friday, May 28	Whitney & Thayer Woods, Cohasset, Hingham
Friday, June 4	Jacobs Pond Conservation Area – Norwell
Friday, June 11	Poor Meadow Brook Conservation Area – Hanson
Friday, June 18	Maquan Pond at Cranberry Cove – Hanson
Friday, June 25	Furnace Pond Beach, Oldham Pond Town Landing – Pembroke
Friday, July 2	Crooker Memorial Park and Island Creek Pond – Duxbury
Friday, July 9	Griffin Dairy Farm – Abington
Friday, July 16	Historic O'Neil Farm – Duxbury
Friday, July 23	Berrybrook Fields – Duxbury
Friday, July 30	Daniel Webster Wildlife Sanctuary – Marshfield
Friday, August 6	Weir River Farm – Hingham

See the rest of the schedule on our website or scan QR code.



Get Your NSRWA Guide Map Today

Even if you don't want to enter our Explore South Shore Contest, you can use our NSRWA Guide Map to check off the properties you visit.

The Guide Map has more than 90 places to explore — from salt marshes to tide pools, local woods to historic points of interest. Our Guide Map shows you where to go for a walk, access points to launch your kayak, and helpful information about parking and much more.

Due to the continuing COVID-19 precautions, we are offering our Guide Map for FREE to help you get outside, de-stress, and stay sane and healthy.

Just drop by our offices at 214 South Street in Norwell — look for the sign with our logo and park in the large parking lot on the right-hand side as you face the building. We will leave maps in a weather-proof bin on the steps.

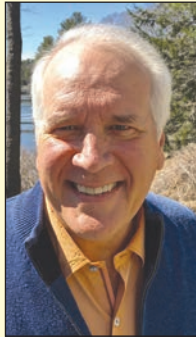
Find your next adventure with your new NSRWA Guide Map!



2020 Annual Report

NSRWA Beyond 2020

We all can relate in some way to the statement, 'Beyond 2020'. The year 2020, for NSRWA, was to have been a year of reflection and celebration for having completed fifty years of protecting and connecting our communities around the North and South Rivers Watershed. It was also the last year of an ambitious five-year strategic plan where we planned to materially change what we as an organization could achieve, especially in Engagement and Education. To think that our NSRWA community achieved all that we did in this milestone, yet a challenging year, points to the resilience we have built as an organization.



In 2020, we finished the year with a net income of \$669,000 or 16% more than 2019. To have one of the best financial performance years in the past decade is a testament to your generous support and our team's unbending focus. We saw growth in almost every area, but individual gifts were up nearly 50% over the previous year, enhanced by several very generous matching challenges from our supporters throughout the year. Thank you!

From an expense perspective, we controlled our expenses. Given the pandemic world we were living in, we were opportunistic in making some needed repairs to our pontoon boat and the headquarters property. Our expenses for the year were \$638,000, or 89% of our plan, with a net income of \$31,000 vs. a loss of \$19,000 in 2019.

Not reflected in these financial results was a Payroll Protection Plan

(PPP) Loan we secured in late April of 2019. This loan gave us the backstop to keep all our staff active and engaged. It also provided us the security to pivot in Educational and Engagement programming when many of our peers were unable to offer programs. We have applied for the forgiveness of this loan through the SBA and expect a positive determination on the loan by late summer.

Lastly, our financial foundation has never been stronger. The NSRWA Endowment Fund, established in 2008, has grown to nearly \$260,000 at year-end. We also completed our five-year 2020 Capital Campaign. Thanks to you, we have secured donations and pledges of \$515,000, which has given us the needed capital to make the staffing and programming investments required to bring Engagement and Education to the next level.

As we look 'Beyond 2020', we are looking to take the lessons learned under our 2020 Strategic Plan and challenging ourselves on what the next five years need to look like? Can we do more, what tools do we need to accomplish those changes, and how can we leverage our members' tremendous support and engagement to make that vision possible? You will be hearing more throughout the year, but be looking for some bold ideas as we pivot again in a post-pandemic world and set our sights on the next fifty years!

Rick Mayfield
NSRWA Treasurer

2020 Accomplishments

Educated:

- Launched F.I.S.H. School - Fostering Innovative Science through Herring counts at Schools, with the generous support of Battelle, to more than 800 students
- Provided remote Water All Around You Programs to more than 2,500 5th graders during the pandemic
- Increased number of people educated since 2017 to more than 430,000 - which is an increase of 800%

Engaged:

- 2,500 citizens to petition the Governor to reinstate funding for the North River Protective Order
- 380+ middle school-age youth in outdoor programs
- Added 145 outdoor listings on our website to help get people outside

Advocated:

- Passage of Norwell Stormwater Bylaw
- Reinstatement of funding for North River Commission
- Passage of Sewage Notification Bill

Healthy Rivers:

- Removed Peterson Pond Dam on Third Herring Brook
- Made progress on river restoration projects on the First Herring Brook and South River

Campaign for Growth (2017 to 2020)

Thank you to all of you who supported our Campaign for Growth (CFG) 2017 to 2020. We are happy to share that we exceeded our Campaign for Growth goals. When we kicked off the CFG at the beginning of 2017, we set the goals to:

- 1) Double our educational outreach to 80,000 people
- 2) Double our engagement to 6,000 people
- 3) Increase annual operational budget by \$260,000 to support investments

Financial support to the CFG made possible investments in staff, technology, and marketing and communications that propelled our efforts to educate and engage thousands of people with our mission to protect local waters.

Campaign for Growth Impact

	2017	2020
EDUCATE/Outreach	40,000+ people	430,000 people -- an increase of 800%
ENGAGE/Connect	2,500+ people	6,000 people -- an increase of nearly 150%
Operating Budget	\$438,000	\$669,000 - an increase of 53%



Thank You for Your Support!

Thank you, our NSRWA community of 6,000+, for all that you do to protect local waters. Thanks to our members, donors, foundations, and sponsors for their financial support. Thanks volunteers for your time, expertise, and dedication to our mission. Thanks to all who register for our main events, whether it's the South Shore Striper Tournament, the Great River Race, or Campfire Stories. Thanks to our 50th Anniversary Committee and Co-Chairs, to the artists and businesses that donated items to our 50th anniversary Auction, and to our Campfire Stories storytellers. Thanks to those who raised funds last year to make possible our programs. Thanks to our partners for helping to further our many programs and projects. And, thank you to those who attended our virtual events and outdoor programs. We couldn't do it without you!

2021 Corporate Sponsors

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& Tackle • Bergsten Music Co • Black Pond Veterinary Service • Blanchards Wine & Spirits-Marshfield • Bond Printing Company • Campanelli Associates Construction • Cape Cod Lumber • Cape Cod On The Fly • Clean Harbors • Clearwater Recovery • Coastal Heritage Bank • Conway Insurance • East Computing • Echo Rowing • Elite Tackle • Fast Signs • Flatwing • Gordon Atlantic Insurance • Green Harbor Bait and Tackle • Harbor Mooring • Horsley Witten Group • Hubbard Plumbing & Heating • InfraNet Solutions • Inter-Fluve • JC's Ice-cream • Les Sampou Music • Liberty Bay Credit Union • Lynch, Marini and Associates • Monahan's Marine • Perry Supply • Plymouth Rock Assurance • Rand-Handy Oil • Raven 360 • Riverside Landscaping • Rockland Federal Credit Union • Roht Marine • Safe Harbor Green Harbor Marina • South Shore Fly Casters • The AllState Grande Insurance Agency • The Hanover Company • The Jevne Team • Town River Marina • Vedavoo • Verc Enterprises • Webster One Source

This newsletter was produced in cooperation with See Plymouth and Plymouth County Commissioners.

NSRWA Legacy Circle

We hope to welcome you as a member of our Legacy Circle—our society honoring those who have included the NSRWA in their estate plans. Protecting our local waters requires constant vigilance. You can help ensure we continue to be a strong and effective organization that protects local waters by naming the NSRWA as a beneficiary in your estate plans, whether in your will, retirement accounts, or insurance policy. Making a legacy gift to the NSRWA shows your commitment to protecting our local waters now and into the future. Your visionary support will ensure future generations may enjoy and rely on precious local waters. Please let us know if you would like more information or if you've already included the NSRWA in your estate plans so we may welcome you to our Legacy Circle.

A special thank you to our current Legacy Circle members:

- William and Susanne Bottiggi
- David DeGhetto
- Betsey and Robert Detwiler*
- Peter and Julie Kelly-Detwiler*
- Herb and Pauline Emilson*
- Craig and Danny Hannafin*
- Richard and Jackie Leach*
- Deborah Lenahan*
- Pieter and Susan Mimno
- Michael and Susan Wolfe*

*Founding members



WaterWatch

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Inside This Issue:

- Resilience, Restoration, and Renewal
- Get Outdoors with NSRWA this Spring
- Partners in Restoration
- 2020 Annual Report

NSRWA 5th Annual South Shore Striper Tournament

June 11-13, 2021

\$3,000 in CASH PRIZES
Including Fly Fishing Division!

Details coming soon!



2021 Great River Race

Virtual Race July 24-Aug 6 • Live Race Aug 7



Yoga at the River's Edge – Mid-June to early September

Renew Your Membership Online!

Scan this QR
code to renew

